

New York is dangerous, I'm saying. No sane person enters Central Park after dusk. Nagano disagrees. Strolled there for hours one night on his recent trip. So pretty buildings, so pretty trees. "And nobody came up to you?" They had, and he'd tried to understand what men were saying, but their accent so different from teacher's. He walk away.

Later in a line at LA airport, a man looking like a Spanish start English conversation with Nagano. "I'm famous actor," say the man. Squinting, Nagano puts his hand on his heart and recites: "Jo - se .. can .. you .. see .." Would teacher explain please this humor.

"You tell us first what else happened." At this, Nagano blushes from ear to ear. He leans forward, one hand cupping the words. Spanish took him to party at very big hotel. Teacher know Dean Martin? Dean Martin talked and talked with Nagano! So funny man. And ... not like Japanese party! Different! American ladies take clothes off!

Continue with the story! Teacher's orders!

Nagano says Martin and Spanish want him eat sugar cube. Good medicine, they keep nodding, giggling, HEAP good medicine. Martin collapse on the floor. Nagano find that so American, to offer plain sugar at party. Of course he never touch. Too sweet for Japanese.

## HAIKU

A snake in one stroke  
wiggles off the old man's brush  
on sale at the shrine.

## HOOKED

Lately  
when I smoke  
I see a fish on a dock.